Procurement of Copra for Karnataka

1387. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of copra procured so far, under Minimum Support Price in Karnataka; and

(b) what is the total quantity of copra remaining to be procured/ lifted, from farmers in the State and the details of steps Government propose to take to procure the copra fully from the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) NAFED has so far procured a total quantity of 5959 MTs of ball copra in Karnataka under Price Support Scheme during 2000 and 2001 season.

(b) The procurement of ball Copra in Karnataka is continuing and it will continue till the prices remain lower than the Minimum Support Price (MSP). No Specific quantity to be procured in future can therefore be indicated.

Improper use of pesticides and insecticides

1388. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, "With that fruit bite, you could be licking pesticide", appearing in the Times of India dated 10th July, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to guard against the dangers of improper use of pesticides and insecticides as highlighted in the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to guard against the dangers of improper use of pesticides:

(i) The Registration Committee constituted under the insecticides Act, 1968 prescribes dose and waiting period while approving